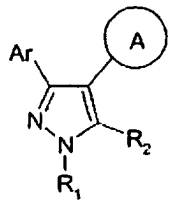
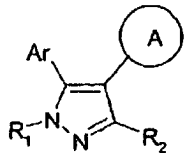
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, or N-oxide~~, hydrate or solvate~~ thereof:




(IA)



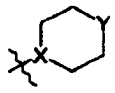

(IB)

wherein

Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position,

$R_1$ and $R_2$ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA)




(IIA)

wherein X represents N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH,

wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ where

$Alk^1$, $Alk^2$ and $Alk^3$ are optionally substituted $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, $-SO_2-$, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein $R^A$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and

Q is ~~hydrogen or~~ an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl,

imidazolyl, or morpholinyl ~~carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; and~~

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, mercapto, mercapto$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$; $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, $SO_2NHR^A$, $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ are each hydrogen.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is $-NR^A-$ wherein $R^A$ is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_s\text{-}Q$, wherein $Alk^1$ is a $C_1\text{-}C_3$ alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl, wherein optionally substituted means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, mercapto, mercapto$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$; $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, $SO_2NHR^A$, $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group ~~is defined as in claim 1~~.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is $-NR^A-$ wherein $R^A$ is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ ~~wherein Alk[1], Alk[2], Alk[3], Cyc, Z and Q are as defined in claim 1~~

$Alk^1$, $Alk^2$ and $Alk^3$ are optionally substituted $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl,

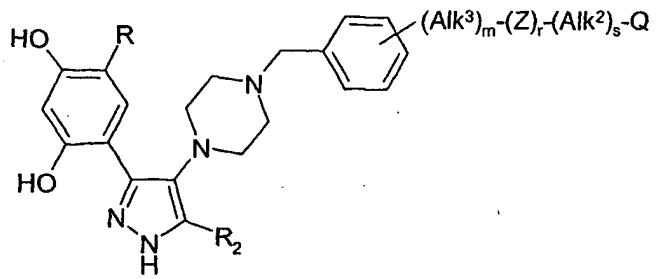
Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, $-SO_2-$, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein $R^A$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and

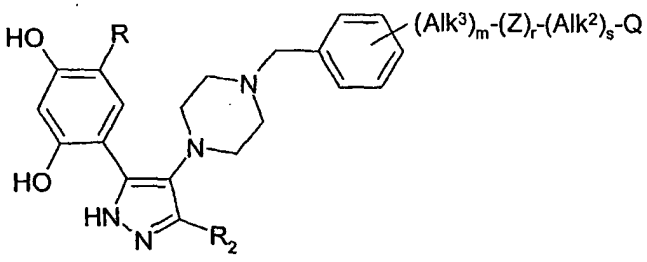
Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinylwherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$; $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, $SO_2NHR^A$, $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, or N-oxide ~~, hydrate or solvate~~ thereof:




(IC)




(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, ~~an optional substituent.~~chloro, bromo, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and ~~$R_2$, m, r, s, $Alk^3$, Z, $Alk^2$ and optionally substituted are as defined in claim 1~~

$R_2$ is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

$Alk^2$ and $Alk^3$ are optionally substituted $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl,

m, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, $-SO_2-$, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein $R^A$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and

Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinyl,

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl,

trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -$COOR^A$, -$COR^A$, -$SO_2R^A$, -$CONH_2$, -$CONHNH_2$; -$CONHNHR^A$, -$CONHNR^AR^B$, -$SO_2NH_2$, -$CONHR^A$, $SO_2NHR^A$, -$CONR^AR^B$, -$SO_2NR^AR^B$, -$NH_2$, -$NHR^A$, -$NR^AR^B$, -$OCONH_2$, -$OCONHR^A$, -$OCONR^AR^B$, -$NHCOR^A$, -$NHCOOR^A$, -$NR^BCOOR^A$, -$NHSO_2OR^A$, -$NR^BSO_2OR^A$, -$NHCONH_2$, -$NR^ACONH_2$, -$NHCONHR^B$, -$NR^ACONHR^B$, -$NHCONR^AR^B$, and -$NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein [[n]]m is 0, r is 1, and Z is -C(=O)NH-.

Claims 21 – 27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo; or by optionally substituted phenyl or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl; or by a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof, and wherein "optionally substituted" is -means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -$COOR^A$, -$COR^A$, -$SO_2R^A$, -$CONH_2$, -$CONHNH_2$; -$CONHNHR^A$, -$CONHNR^AR^B$, -$SO_2NH_2$, -$CONHR^A$, $SO_2NHR^A$, -$CONR^AR^B$, -$SO_2NR^AR^B$, -$NH_2$, -$NHR^A$, -$NR^AR^B$, -$OCONH_2$, -$OCONHR^A$, -$OCONR^AR^B$, -$NHCOR^A$, -$NHCOOR^A$, -$NR^BCOOR^A$, -$NHSO_2OR^A$, -$NR^BSO_2OR^A$, -$NHCONH_2$, -$NR^ACONH_2$, -$NHCONHR^B$, -$NR^ACONHR^B$, -$NHCONR^AR^B$, and -$NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group ~~as defined in claim 1~~.